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against drunkenness, then hand it to Cleandrus, and thus charm him betimes' (p. 50).

No doubt a search through the *Morals* would disclose many more instances of both sorts. It is to be hoped the classics will be thoroughly explored for this purpose, and the collections rendered accessible.

ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In Bartlett's invaluable work, *Familiar Quotations*, (9th ed.) page 208, the expression, "The Great Secretary of Nature,—Sir Francis Bacon," is quoted from Izaak Walton. A footnote quotes a similar phrase from James Howell. The credit really belongs, however, to an earlier writer than either. In Donne's first Satire, written not later than 1593, we find the phrase, "Nature's secretary, the philosopher." As Walton was an ardent admirer of Donne, it seems probable that the angler's application of this phrase to Bacon was a reminiscence.

WM. LYON PHELPS.

Yale University.

CORRECTIONS.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—I wish to rectify some statements made in my review of Dr. Lessing's thesis (*M. L. N.*, March, 1903): p. 92, line 30; unfortunately I have misquoted the author; the line should read 'Stimmungen' instead of 'Vorstellungen.' This correction does not affect my argument which is chiefly concerned with the word *unklaren*.

My remark about the influence of *die Räuber* upon *Spartacus* can no longer stand as a criticism of the thesis, since the author tells me that he did not know the German edition of Ehrhardt, when publishing his paper.

P. 92, second line from bottom: change 'one' to 'me,' in order to make it more plain that I consider Schiller's influence upon *die Ahnfrau* stronger than is admitted even by Wylpel.

A. BUSSE.

Harvard University.

BRIEF MENTION.

A Thesaurus Dictionary of the English Language.

Designed to suggest immediately any desired word needed to express exactly a given idea. A Dictionary, Synonyms, Antonyms, Idioms, Foreign Phrases, Pronunciations, A Copious Correlation of Words. Prepared under the supervision of FRANCIS A. MARCH, LL. D., L. H. D., D. C. L., Litt. D., and FRANCIS A. MARCH, JR., A. M., Ph. D. Historical Publishing Co., Philadelphia, 1903. 4to., pp. xvi, 1192.

For half a century the English-writing world has steadfastly relied upon the help of Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*, with its one thousand categories, beginning with "existence" (apparently an appropriate beginning), and ending with "temple" (equally appropriate, perhaps, if it be allowed to connote "funeral"). As every one knows, Roget's book is at once so good and so bad as to be notable for just this clash of qualities; but it has become antiquated, the language having grown away from it, and therefore it is doomed to less praise for its merits and less patience with its faults.

Professor March's remarkable book is worthy in all respects to succeed to Roget's in public favor, and to hold that favor in undisputed right for a good half-century to come.

The *Thesaurus Dictionary* makes complete amends for the shortcomings of the older book in being at once both a complete dictionary, with all the words in alphabetic order and briefly defined, and a book of synonyms and antonyms by means of a system—a very ingenious and a very admirable system—of grouping the words under significant heads. Thus, the editor illustrates, the word *anger* in its alphabetic place, duly defined, supplies a reference to the groups, EXCITABILITY—INEXCITABILITY, and FAVORITE—ANGER. Turning to the first group, in its alphabetical place, one finds "two parallel columns, the left hand for EXCITABILITY, the right for INEXCITABILITY, each running on for a couple of pages and bringing together some one hundred and fifty words and phrases. These are divided into nouns, verbs, verbal phrases, adjectives, etc., arranged in alphabetic order. The first column contains all words and phrases naturally